

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Michelle Maldonado, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: February 3, 2023

RE: Provost Report

BOARD ON RANK AND TENURE

The Board on Rank and Tenure held formal meetings on January 13 and 14 to review the applications of fourteen candidates. The President received the recommendations from the Board, the candidate's department, the deans, and the Provost/VPAA.

CTLE OFFICE OF GLOBAL EDUCATION RESTRUCTURING (discussion item)

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Intersession grants

Four faculty members were awarded intersession grants:

- Gerard Damancas, Ph.D. – “A facile, convenient and affordable method to determine the authenticity of liquid chicken egg whites.”
- Christopher Hauser, Ph.D. – “Aristotle’s Epistemology of Essence”
- Adam Pratt, Ph.D. – “The Noble and Indefatigable Auxiliary of the Republican Party: The Wide-Awake in Pennsylvania”
- Brian Snee, Ph.D.

Clavius and Summer Grants

A call for proposals for Clavius and Summer grants were sent out in January. Applications should be submitted electronically to provost@scranton.edu or by campus mail to the Associate Provost’s Office no later than March 3, 2023.

RANKINGS

U.S. News & World Report’s 2023 “Best Online Graduate Programs” ranked our online master’s degree programs in business (excluding MBA) at No. 54 and our online MBA program at No. 102 in the nation. They also ranked us at No. 72 in the country for “Best Online MBA Programs for Veterans.”

Other rankings published by US. News has ranked us among the top 10 “Best Regional Universities in the North” for 29 consecutive years. We are ranked No. 5 in the 2023 edition of the guidebook. They also ranked us No. 6 in its category for “Best Undergraduate Teaching.

COLLEGE UPDATES

CAS

- The College of Arts and Sciences offered an Academic Success Workshop for at-risk first year students during January 2023. This four-week program aimed to assist students in

developing study skills, employing better time management, and ensuring an awareness of resources that are available to them at the University.

- The Pre-Health Shadowing Program is underway. Dr. Jakubowska initiated a soft launch in Fall 2022. She reached out to students with limited shadowing experience and provided them with contact information for doctors who have volunteered to participate in the University's shadowing program. She will assess these experiences with both the students and the medical professionals in spring 2023 and use that feedback to expand the program beginning in Fall 2023.

KSOM

Dean Higgins reported that KSOM is committed to fostering a culture of student excellence. The college will be working on three areas:

Curriculum and Programing – Provide a rigorous and transformative curriculum and student experience grounded in Ignatian educational concepts.

- Examine our undergraduate core curricula and make recommendation to ensure it is innovative and has market-relevant courses. (Report is due April 30, 2023)
- Complete the revised MBA program to ensure it is innovative with market-relevant course content that enhances the reputation of KSOM. (Revision will be sent to the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee by the end of the 2023 spring semester.

Community Engagement – Continue to engage with alumni, community and other stakeholders in innovative ways that make a positive impact on society.

- Develop partnerships with academic and business organization.
- Develop the Business High School Scholars Program as a pathway for the marginalized to gain access to our programs.

Managing Resources and Facilities – Continue to emphasize a culture of excellence and continuous improvement in KSOM that ensure we continue to be good stewards of our funds.

- Develop a Marketing plan across a variety of media platforms (especially the web) that increases the brand and reputation of the KSOM School. (Marketing Plan developed by June 30, 2023)

PCPS

- PCPS held the first-year student kick-off for TAPESTRY, PCPS' four-year professional development program, on January 31, 2023. The program introduced first-year students to how Jesuit values will be infused into their education in the helping professions at the University. Community-Based Learning (CBL) is a major component of TAPESTRY. The Office of Community Based Learning PCPS collaborated with PCPS on this event to help lay the foundation for the 80 credits of CBL that PCPS students will complete before they graduate from the University of Scranton. First-year student will also be required to participate in a CBL Talk and a CBL community activity this term before the first-year student Wrap-up Event in May.
- The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) has scheduled the accreditation visit for our three graduate counseling programs, Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling and School Counseling, for April 3-5, 2023.

- Proposals will be submitted soon to the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee (FSCC) for consideration of two new programs in Psychiatric Nursing: MSN Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization and DNP Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Specialization. Both programs will provide students with the training required to be a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. Pending approval by the FSCC, Provost and BOT, these programs will be offered fully on-line starting in Fall 2024. The target cohort size for the programs is 20.
- Interest is strong for our two newest academic programs. The undergraduate program in Communication Sciences and Disorders has a 26% increase in applications over last year and, to date, enrollment in that program has exceeded expectations. The new MS in Speech Language Pathology Program, which will be admitting its first class in Fall 2023, currently has 74 completed applications vying for 20-22 slots.

CURRICULUM APPROVAL

Course Change

	Date Posted
SPAN 102: Elementary Spanish II	12/2/22
ITAL 102: Beginning Italian	12/2/22
GERM 102: Beginning German	12/2/22
CNS 102: Beginning Chinese	12/2/22
FREN 102: Beginning French	12/2/22
JPN 102: Beginning Japanese	12/2/22
ARAB 102: Beginning Arabic	12/2/22
BIOIL 241: Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy (S)	1/20/23
BIOL 241L: Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy Lab (S)	1/20/23
COUN 590: Clinical Mental Health Counseling Practicum	1/5/23

New Course

ENLT 330: Major Authors	12/6/22
ENLT 342: Digital Victorians	12/6/22
COUN 525: Grief and Loss	1/3/23

Program Change

Early and Primary Teacher Education	1/10/23
Masters in Finance	1/18/23

COMMITTEE UPDATES

PCAPC

The PCAPC has been busy this year. The committee approved a Faculty-Led Study Abroad Course Handbook. It will be posted to the Provost Website. The committee continues its work on a policy for Policy for undergraduate students accelerating into an on-line graduate program.

Due to the increase of requests for block schedule exceptions, inconsistent past approval methods, and the number of outdated approvals currently in use, the PCAPC determined that all currently existing approvals for exceptions to block scheduling will expire at the end of the Spring 2024 semester. In order to standardize the block schedule exception requests, at least one

of the following criteria must be used by departments when submitting written requests to PCAPC for exceptions to standard block times. In order to prepare for the 2024-2025 academic year, the committee asks that requests be made by the end of February.

Faculty Handbook Committee

The committee continues its work on updating language to allow faculty to upload evaluation materials to the University-provided system, currently on SharePoint. This will align the evaluation process and the rank and tenure process.

UPDATES

- Two accounting Ph.D. students won The Institute of Internal Auditors Michael J. Barrett Doctoral Dissertation Award this year, becoming the third and fourth doctoral students to win this highly-coveted prize in just the past 4 year. We are the leading institution for the number of doctoral students that have received this award.
- Accounting students are offering free assistance in completing and filing federal, state and local tax returns to area residents that meet the requirements through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.
- The Scranton Area Community Foundation has awarded a \$5,000 grant to support the ongoing “Scranton’s Story, Our Nation’s Story” project.
- Black History Film Series, presented by The Louis Stanley Brown Black Student Union, and the Weinberg Memorial Library will be shown throughout February. For details visits <https://news.scranton.edu/articles/2023/01/fac-black-history-month-film-series.shtml>
- Diversity/Inclusion Lunch and Learn Series for staff and faculty have been scheduled for the spring semester.
 - March 8th: “All These Isms” Understanding Privilege, Power and Oppression” will be presented by Dr. Paul Datti.
 - April 11th: “Psychological Safety in Organizations and Classrooms” will be presented by Dr. Ovidiu Cocieru.
 - May 3rd: “Disruptive Innovation: Inclusive Educational and Community-Based Rehabilitation Practices in Uganda” will be presented by Dr. Michael Bermudez